

Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

TELFORD, SAM R., JR. 1980. *Tantilla oolitica****Tantilla oolitica* Telford**
Rim rock crowned snake*Tantilla coronata wagneri*: Blanchard, 1938:370 (part).*Tantilla oolitica* Telford, 1966:281. Type-locality, "Miami, Dade County, Florida in a vacant lot on southwest 27th Avenue near 27th Street." Holotype, University of Florida Collections 17326, adult male, collected in April 1955, collector unknown (examined by author).

- CONTENT. The species is monotypic.

• DEFINITION. *Tantilla oolitica* is a medium-sized member of the genus (maximum snout to vent length 171 mm in males, 246 mm in females) with a uniform pale tan dorsum (dorsal color grading into pale ventral coloration). The head pattern is variable. Dade County specimens have a completely black head pattern continuous with the black nuchal collar. Monroe County specimens have a head pattern ranging from the completely black pattern seen in Dade County specimens to one consisting of a prominent, but broken, pale parietal band interposed between black head cap and black nuchal collar. The head is broadly rounded with a non-countersunk lower jaw. The hemipenis possesses two basal hooks, a posterolateral hook adjacent to the sulcus spermaticus in the basal third of the organ, and an anteromedial hook, similar in size, in the mesal third of the organ. The ventrals number 135 to 146, subcaudals 41 to 63. Dorsal scale rows number 15 throughout. The head scales consist of one preocular, two postoculars, one anterior and posterior temporal, six

or seven supralabials (3rd and 4th entering orbit), and five or six infralabials (four in contact with anterior chinshields). The posterior chinshields are two-thirds the length of the anterior pair, which are in contact with the mental. The anal plate is divided. Maxillary teeth number 14 to 16.

• DESCRIPTIONS. Telford (1966) described the species and provided details of scutellation, coloration, external and hemipenial morphology and dentition; Porras and Wilson (1979) gave additional morphological data. Duellman and Schwartz furnished a partial description of Dade County specimens designated as *Tantilla coronata wagneri*. Conant (1975) presented a brief description of *T. oolitica*.

• ILLUSTRATIONS. *Tantilla oolitica* is illustrated in the original description (Telford, 1966), where the hemipenis and dorsal and lateral views of the head are figured, and by photographs of the head and entire animal in Porras and Wilson (1979).

- DISTRIBUTION. Dade and Monroe counties, Florida.

- FOSSIL RECORD. None.

• PERTINENT LITERATURE. In addition to morphological description, Telford (1966) included brief information on the habitat of *T. oolitica*, supplementing observations published by Duellman and Schwartz (1958). Conant (1975) provided a brief account of the species and a range map. Campbell (1978) discussed the status of the populations of this species.

• ETYMOLOGY. The name *oolitica* is a Latinized reference to the underlying geological stratum of its habitat, the Miami oolite.

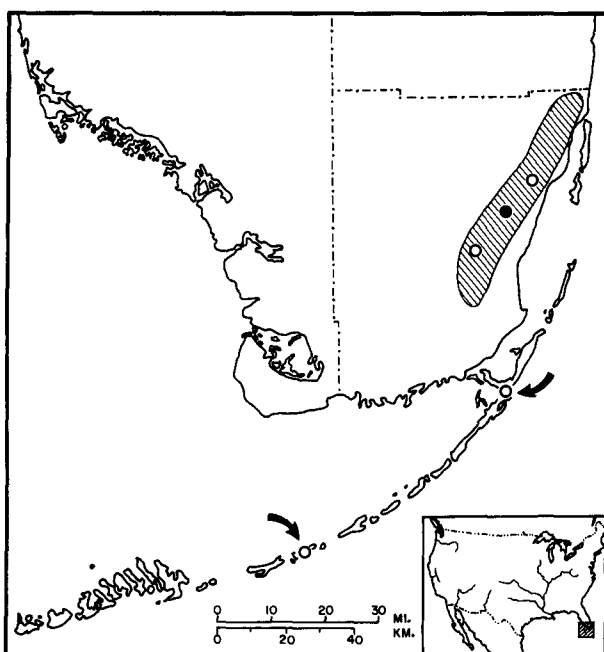
• REMARKS. The small sample of *T. oolitica* available at the time of its description (11 specimens) shows greater variability in scale characters than seen in *T. coronata* and *T. relicta*. *Tantilla oolitica* resembles *T. coronata* more than it does *T. relicta* in characters of scutellation, body proportions, size and hemipenial morphology, and probably originated as a disjunct population of that species, isolated since the Peorian interglacial.

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MAP. Distribution of *Tantilla oolitica* in southern Florida. Solid circle marks type-locality; open circles indicate other localities. Shaded area estimates range on mainland; arrows point to insular records.